

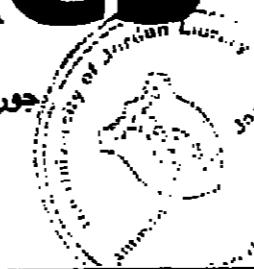
Trade delegation back from Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 10-member trade and economic delegation has returned to Amman at the end of a week-long visit to Sudan and Egypt during which they signed a \$30 million trade agreement with Sudan and another agreement with Egypt for the import of 20,000 tonnes of Egyptian rice for the Ministry of Supply. Under the trade agreement with Sudan, in which each country will have equal share (\$25 million each), Jordan will export cement, electrical appliances, medicines and other goods and will import meats, maize, broad beans and sesames from Sudan. A Sudanese trade delegation will be visiting Jordan in mid-February for talks with Jordanian officials on the kinds of goods and products which will be exchanged between the two countries. The two agreements were signed by the Ministry of Supply Under-Secretary Abdullah Al Hawamdeh who led the Jordanian delegation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جordan Times يومية مستقلة تنشر تقارير عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرادي)



Denmark calls for end to Gulf war

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — The foreign ministers of Oman and Denmark on Sunday urged Iraq and Iran to halt their battles and start negotiations for a settlement of the 6-year-old conflict. The appeal was made by Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellermann-Jensen and his Omani counterpart Youseff Ibn Alawi at a joint press conference. Both deplored the "tremendous loss of lives and resources" in the war and warned against continuation of the hostilities or broadening of their scope. Mr. Ellermann-Jensen, who was concluding a four-day official visit to the sultanate, pledged that means of ending the Gulf war would be foremost on the agenda of the European Community when his country took over chairmanship in July. The Danish minister has been discussing the Gulf war, the Arab-Israeli conflict and relations with the nations of the Arabian peninsula on a three-nation tour that covered Saudi Arabia, North Yemen and Oman.

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Sudan to reshuffle cabinet

KHARTOUM (R) — A Sudanese cabinet minister said in remarks published that a government reshuffle was expected within the next three months. Interior Minister Sidekham Al Hussein told Al Ussu daily that the changes would involve four of the 20-man coalition government, formed last May after Sudan's first democratic elections in nearly two decades.

Arafat in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived here Sunday for talks with Algerian officials, Algeria's news agency APS reported. Mr. Arafat, who came from Tunis where the PLO has its political headquarters, said in an arrival statement this visit was linked to Algerian attempts to reunite Palestinian ranks. Algerian President Chadli Benjedid last year proposed to host a Palestinian reconciliation conference.

Israel to help U.S. in Iran arms probe

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel pledged to answer American questions about its role in the U.S. sale of arms to Iran. "If the United States poses questions to us, we will answer those questions," cabinet secretary Eliezer Rubinstein told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting. Earlier, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir termed as baseless allegations in a leaked Senate report and a White House memorandum that Israel was the moving force behind the sale of weapons to Tehran (see page 2).

Greece to buy 40 F-16 fighters

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government will sign an agreement with the United States' General Dynamics Corporation in Athens Monday for the purchase of 40 F-16 fighters, a government spokesman said. The deal is estimated to be worth about \$1 billion and will be paid out of U.S. military credits to Greece, informed sources said.

Filipino plane crash kills 2

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine Air Force plane with 12 people aboard crashed in the Sulu Sea, the government news agency reported Sunday. It said two people were killed, three rescued and the rest were missing. The Philippine News Agency said the plane, a BN-1 Islander, was on a flight from Cagayan De Tawi-Tawi to Zamboanga city

Fire kills 7 in France

CHATEAUNEUF-SUR-CHARANTE, France (AP) — Fire swept through a home in a small village in western France on Sunday, killing three adults and four children, authorities said. Investigators said they were not sure what caused the blaze, but were looking at an old wooden stove that was the only source of heat in the house in the village of Mosnac north east of Chateauneuf-Sur-Charante.

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Fierce battle continues in Gulf Iraq says 11 Iranian divisions wiped out

'War of the cities' escalates

By Lamis K. Andoni
in Baghdad
With agency dispatches

FIERCE battles continued on the southern Gulf war front yesterday with Iraq announcing that its armed forces had destroyed 11 Iranian fighting divisions and four brigades, totalling some 50,000 men.

War communiques issued by Iraq's High Command yesterday spoke of major battles to repel the invading Iranian troops from the Fish Lake area on the Shatt Al Arab waterway. The communiques said the Iranians were sending fresh troops to an area the Iranians had occupied earlier and which measures about 5 kilometres in length and 2 kilometres in width. But the Iraqi forces were counterattacking the invading Iranians and were scoring successes, the communiques said.

Meanwhile, Iran launched missile attacks against Basra and Baghdad. Iraq said it countered with a "devastating" air strike on Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's holy city of Qom.

The official Iranian News Agency said 1,000 Iraqis were killed as Iranian fighters shouting "Allah Akbar," drove enemy troops away from the Iranian village of Shalanchan on Sunday.

The border outpost is less than 30 kilometres south east of Basra, the Islamic Republic News

Agency (IRNA) said.

Tehran Radio claimed Iranian troops killed or wounded 15,000 Iraqis and captured 1,000 prisoners-of-war since the offensive, code-named Karbala-5, began early Friday.

A military communique carried by Iraq's official news agency said Iran lost 250 tanks in heavy fighting late Saturday night and Sunday and Iranian casualties included at least 5,000 dead.

The claims could not be substantiated because neither side allows foreign correspondents into the battle zones on a regular basis. But Iraqi authorities were raising expectations among correspondents here yesterday that they might be taken to the front on Monday. This the correspondents took as a sign that Iraq was doing well in the battles, and that Baghdad was confident of success in defeating the latest Iranian offensive.

According to informed sources here, the Iraqi forces have been able to regain positions the Iranians had earlier occupied in

the area south east of Basra and have managed to contain the invasion in the area to the north east.

In the first day of the 3-day-old offensive, these sources said, the Iranian forces were able to take the positions of five Iraqi brigades located in these two areas and which constituted the first defence line for Iraq.

The major battles are now raging in the east bank of the artificial Fish Lake, the sources added.

According to military experts here, Fish Lake was constructed to constitute a natural obstacle to any Iranian attempt to penetrate Iraqi defences in that area.

Moreover, the Iraqis have dumped the whole area with water from Shatt Al Arab. The experts, who know the landscape very well, said the Iraqis cannot have problems containing the invasion but it will take time to drive the Iranians away.

However, the experts added, the area was open and the Iranians very vulnerable to Iraqi air raids, artillery shelling and ground-to-ground missiles.

The tit-for-tat missile strikes into each other's cities were described as retaliatory by both sides.

A military spokesman here said a number of civilians were killed and many wounded when the Iranian rocket that was fired yesterday smashed into a thickly populated residential area of the capital at 5:55 a.m.

Baghdad sees Iranian offensive as attempt to disrupt Islamic summit

By Lamis Andoni
in Baghdad

THE second Iranian offensive against Iraq in less than two weeks is viewed here as yet another attempt by Tehran to disrupt efforts to convene the Islamic summit which is scheduled to be held on Jan. 28.

According to Iraqi and Western sources here the Iranian attack, which was launched early on Friday was a clear warning to the Islamic Arab states not to attend the summit in Kuwait.

"The message is very clear,"

said one Iraqi source. "The Iranian regime is threatening that Kuwait would not be a safe place for convening the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit."

According to these sources' analysis, the aim of the first offensive, which was repulsed on Christmas day was to take over Basra and to score a military victory before the OIC conference.

The idea was that Iran, in the wake of such a victory, would attend the summit and "dictate its own conditions on the Islamic countries and Iraq," the sources

said. But when the offensive failed to achieve its aim Iran decided against attending the summit and launched another attack against Iraq's Third Corps, east of Basra, the sources said. The new Iranian aim is to occupy new Iraqi territory, and thus to disrupt it, they added.

The Iranian forces have been unable to penetrate more than four miles into the Iraqi territory in the new offensive, and the sources said the fighting was now concentrating near the Fish Lake in the northeastern part of the Basra

(Continued on page 5)

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Israeli tank fire kills

Irish UNIFIL soldier

BEIRUT (R) — The commander of the U.N. peace-keeping force in South Lebanon said Sunday that unprovoked Israeli tank fire had killed an Irish U.N. soldier.

"The Irish soldier... was killed by a round fired from an Israeli tank. This firing was unprovoked," Maj.-Gen. Gustav Haegglund, commander of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said in a press release.

"I have vigorously protested this act to the Israeli authorities, who undertook to conduct an urgent investigation," Gen. Haegglund added.

The Irishman, Corporal Denmo McGlonghlin, 33, was killed at a U.N. post near Barzachit village on the edge of Israel's self-declared "buffer zone" in the South.

Ireland has protested to Israel and Defence Minister Paddy O'Toole said Sunday he was "dismayed, disappointed and disgusted" over the death of the Irish soldier.

Mr. O'Toole said: "I have grave doubts about the efficacy of our further involvement."

Foreign Minister Peter Barry protested to the Israeli government Saturday night about the incident. Mr. O'Toole told Irish state radio: "We now have direct involvement by the Israeli forces."

"This was a deliberate attack on a United Nations post and has serious implications. I feel it took place in the knowledge that

OIC reaffirms intention to hold summit in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A top official of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) said in remarks published that the Islamic summit scheduled to start in Kuwait January 26 would proceed as planned.

The Kuwaiti daily Al Seyassah, in a report from Jeddah, said OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada "affirmed... the fifth Islamic summit conference would be held as scheduled in Kuwait, on the fixed date."

Iraq, critical of Kuwaiti backing for Iraq in the Gulf war, has asked the OIC to have the summit changed to a more "neutral" venue. Iran has also charged that Kuwait, only a few kilometres from the southern front, could not guarantee the safety of the three-day meeting.

President Ali Khamenei said Iran would not attend the scheduled summit, and would accept none of its decisions.

Mr. Pirzada said he had received a positive response to invitations to attend the summit from United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and other dignitaries invited as observers.

Bangladesh has urged Iran to attend the Islamic summit meeting. Foreign Secretary Fakhruddin Ahmad said Sunday: "We have urged Iran to reconsider its plea for shifting the summit venue on the question of alleged Kuwaiti support to Iraq."

"The Irish position commander went up to the roof of the building and told the Iranian commander: 'We are still hopeful that Iran's voice would be heard there,' he

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page

2 U.S. colonels implicated in illegal Iran arms deal

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Times reported Sunday that two retired U.S. army colonels had been implicated in illegal private arms deals with Iran while they were on active duty in sensitive European posts.

The newspaper, citing military sources, arms dealers and confidential documents, said the army 18 months ago became aware of the dealings, going back as far as 1983, but U.S. intelligence services showed little interest in pursuing the investigation.

The issue of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran rocked the Reagan administration when it became public in November last year. The administration subsequently said the sales got underway about mid-1985.

The New York Times said an army inquiry concluded that the officers had violated conflict of interest laws barring the use of inside information for private gain while on active duty and also bans prohibiting business dealings with U.S. defence companies within two years of retiring.

Israel denies initiating U.S.-Iran weapons deal

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said allegations leaked from a U.S. Senate report that Israel pressed the United States to sell arms to Iran were baseless.

"I am not getting into details (but) the main things published in this report ... are false and everything thrown on Israel is baseless and simply not true," Shamir said Saturday night.

In an interview on armed forces radio, the right-wing Israeli leader said he had not read the report leaked Friday to the Washington Post. He said Israel might receive the document within a few days.

Israel Radio quoted unidentified Israeli sources in Washington as saying they feared the Senate report and a document released by the White House on Friday could make Israel the scapegoat for the arms scandal.

The document, a memorandum to President Reagan from the National Security Adviser John Poindexter, said that former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was the moving force behind the arms deal.

Peres, now foreign minister, denied the allegations, saying Friday on his return from a 36-hour visit to Rome: "The Americans approached us and we responded."

Israel has contended from the start of the scandal that it acted in accordance with U.S. requests in an effort to free American hostages held by pro-Iranian guerrillas in Lebanon.

Israeli leaders have also denied any role in the transfer of proceeds from the arms deal to Nicaraguan contra rebels.

The White House memorandum said Peres secretly

It is also illegal under U.S. law to sell arms to Iran.

The newspaper said the two, Col. Ralph Broman, who served at the U.S. embassy in Paris, and Col. William Mott, assigned to the U.S. embassy in London, had denied any wrongdoing.

The paper said Col. Broman was associated with a company that was involved in a deal to supply a billion dollars worth of U.S.-made weapons to Iran. It said Col. Mott was a founder of a company in Britain that advised companies doing business with U.S. defence manufacturers.

The newspaper also said in another report that a retired U.S. intelligence official has confirmed that former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane took a key-shaped cake and a Bible inscribed by President Reagan on a covert mission to Tehran last

May.

The newspaper, quoting a person who had read the Senate Intelligence Committee's draft report on the Iran affair, said George Cave, a now-retired Central Intelligence Agency Iran expert who was part of the mission, confirmed these details. Cave also told the committee the group had used 10 falsified passports, believed to be Irish, the paper said.

These details, originally asserted by Iran, have not been confirmed by any U.S. official.

The Times said investigators found that the colonels violated conflict-of-interest laws involving the use of inside information for private business while on active duty. The findings were referred to the National Security Council, the CIA and the Defence Intelligence Agency, but no prosecution resulted, the Times said it was told by officials.

A spokesman for the Army Criminal Investigation Command within the last month confirmed an investigation was occurring, but declined to give details, the Times said.

White House reportedly bugged arms sales

Communications

WASHINGTON (R) — National Security Council advisers in the White House became suspicious that money from arms sales to Iran was disappearing and monitored the communications of Middle East arms agents involved in the deals, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The Post said Lt.-Col. Oliver North, the fired White House aide who has been identified as the key figure in the complex pattern of arms deals involving Israeli middlemen, asked the National Security Agency (NSA), the vast monitoring department near Washington, to conduct the intercepts.

The newspaper said the monitoring showed the Reagan administration had evidence that it was dealing with some shady middlemen in its efforts to get arms to Iran.

But the newspaper said the eavesdropping provided no further proof of one of the most controversial aspects of the Iranian arms sales, the diversion of some of the money to aid contra rebels.

The newspaper said that as a result of the meeting, Mr. McFarlane recommended U.S. arms be sent to Iran via Israel.

Peres on Saturday denied a report that one of his former aides was the first to suggest the revenue from U.S. arms sales to Iran be diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

The Washington Post on Saturday reported that Nir suggested the diversion during a January 1986 meeting with Reagan administration officials.

"I can repeat categorically that Israel did not play any role in diverting money to the contras," Peres said at a news conference.

dispatched to Washington his special adviser with instructions to propose a plan by which Israel, with limited U.S. assistance, could create conditions to help bring about a more moderate Iranian government.

Peres' adviser, Amiram Nir, has yet to comment publicly on his alleged role in the scandal that has deeply embarrassed Mr. Reagan.

In another development, the Israeli newspaper Davar reported that the speaker of Iran's parliament met in London a year ago with Israel's foreign ministry director-general at the time, David Kinche, arms merchant Yaakov Nimrodi and Robert McFarlane, the U.S. national security adviser at the time.

It said Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani gave the Israelis a list of 80 Iranian military officials believed to hold pro-Western views.

Among those mentioned, Davar reported, was Ahmad Khomeini, son of Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ... Koran Programme review 16:00 ... Tom Sawyer 16:20 ... Soccer: Italy vs. Uruguay 16:25 ... Different Strokes 16:30 ... Local programme 16:35 ... Local programme 16:45 ... Programme review and varieties 20:45 ... News in Arabic 20:50 ... Message from Oman 20:55 ... Arabic series 21:40 ... Local comedy 22:00 ... Tomorrow's programmes 22:05 ... Arabic series 22:30 ... News summary in Arabic 23:10 ... Arabic varieties 23:40 ... Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Andre Malraux (documentary) 19:00 ... News in French 19:15 ... Sport magazine (French) 19:30 ... Magazin Zero (French) 20:20 ... News in Hebrew 20:30 ... No Place like Home 21:10 ... Sandokan (mini series) 22:00 ... News in English 22:20 ... The Ballerina

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & parity on 9360 KHz, SW Tel: 77411119

07:00 ... Light Music 07:30 ... Newsdesk 08:00 ... Morning Show 10:00 ... News Summary 10:45 ... Just a Minute 11:00 ... News Summary 12:00 ... News Summary 12:45 ... Readings 13:00 ... News Summary 13:30 ... Pop Song Cont'd. 14:00 ... News Bulletin 14:10 ... Instrumentals 14:15 ... French way of Life 15:00 ... Concert Hour 15:45 ... News Summary 16:00 ... News Summary 16:45 ... Instrumentals 16:50 ... Old Favourites 17:00 ... Guide to the Galaxy 17:30 ... Pop Session 18:30 ... News Summary 18:45 ... Sports Round-up 18:50 ... News in Arabic 18:55 ... Newsdesk 19:00 ... News with a Star 19:30 ... Evening Show

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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Wind in the Willows 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Waveguide 07:00 World News 07:45 Twenty-Four Hours 08:00 News Summary 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 Recording of the Week 08:50 Newsdesk 08:50 A Word in Edgewise 09:00 World News 09:05 99% Twenty-Four Hours 09:05 News Summary 09:20 ... The Ryton's 09:30 ... The Story of the Year 09:45 ... The Wind in the Willows 10:15 The Wind in the Willows 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:20 Press Review 11:15 Good Books 11:30 Financial News 11:45 People's Choice 12:00 News Summary: A Word Edgewise 12:30 The Sunday Readers 13:00 A Word 13:45 News 13:55 News 13:55 Hand Knit 13:55 ... Alman 14:45 Radio Newsdesk 14:45 Just a Minute 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:20 Newsdesk 15:30 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:35 Look What They've done to my Song 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Stories by V.S. Pritchett 16:50 Radio News 17:15 A Word in Edgewise 17:30 ... The Story of the Year 18:15 Computer World 18:30 Great Organists Play Bach 18:45 The Word Today 19:00 World News 19:45 Book Choice 19:15 Jazz Score 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Multiback

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Home news

Committee to review restoration of holy shrines in Jerusalem

AMMAN (J.T.) — An eight-member committee charged with supervising the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Arab Jerusalem open meetings Monday to discuss the progress of preparations for the restoration of the holy shrines. The committee, which is chaired by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheil, will review an agreement concluded with a consultative firm entrusted with issuing a tender for the installation of a fire alarm system in the Islamic shrines and the use of brass plates for covering the Dome of the Rock.

Al Aqsa Mosque was subject to an arson attempt in 1968 when the pulpit and other interior parts of

the mosque were burnt. The Jordanian government last year announced it would cover the cost of restoring the Dome of the Rock, and this restoration work is estimated at JD 1.75 million.

The Amman Chamber of Commerce and Arab and Islamic bodies and organisations have announced financial contributions towards the restoration work. The Amman Chamber of Commerce has pledged JD 150,000 for this cause and the World Islamic League, based in Saudi Arabia, has donated 8,000 square metres of carpet for the holy shrines.

The Dome of the Rock, which was previously coated with lead and aluminium with gold, will now be covered with gold-plated brass.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday bids farewell to members of the eighth medical and assistance mission leaving to carry on relief work in Sudan (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fayez receives Soviet ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez on Sunday received Soviet Ambassador in Amman Alexander Zinchuk. Talks during the meeting focused on bilateral relations as well as the current situation in the region.

Hamzeh in Geneva for WHO meeting

GENEVA (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh arrived in Geneva on Saturday to take part in a World Health Organisation (WHO) executive committee meeting which opened on Sunday. The two-week meeting deals with subjects pertaining to the implementation of WHO's resolutions and topics to be discussed at the organisation's headquarters in May as well as reports from the WHO's six world regions. Dr. Hamzeh, who is attending in his capacity as chairman of the World Health Society, is accompanied by Dr. Hani Owais from the Ministry of Health.

Saudi requests more Jordanian teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education has expressed desire to employ an additional number of Jordanian teachers for the coming scholastic year. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced on Sunday. He said that he received a message to that effect from the labour attaché at the Jordanian embassy in Riyadh who had been approached by Saudi officials. Saudi Arabia employ hundreds of Jordanian teachers in its schools and the Saudi Ministry of Education recently denied rumours that the Kingdom intends to terminate their contracts.

Science university seeks Saudi loan

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Science and Technology President Karem Ajlouni left for Riyadh on Sunday on a several day visit to Saudi Arabia. He said in a pre-departure statement that he will hold talks with officials at the Saudi Development Fund on obtaining a 70 million Saudi Riyal loan to finance the construction of the faculties of medical sciences, medicine, dentistry, general health and paramedics and nursing. Dr. Ajlouni is accompanied on the visit by the director of the university's projects and the assistant secretary general of the Ministry of Planning.

Majali meets ALECSO director

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali on Sunday received the director general of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), Dr. Muhiedine Saber. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the existing cooperation between Jordan and ALECSO in the educational, scientific and cultural fields.

GFJW event to support Iraqi women

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) will launch a special programme, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, in support of Iraqi women. The four-day programme, which will be launched on Jan. 30, entails a seminar on the on-going Gulf conflict, recitals by Jordanian and Iraqi poets, an exhibition of photographs of the Iraqi armed forces and an exhibition of Iraqi products. Proceeds of the events and functions will benefit Iraqi women's efforts in supporting the Iraqi armed forces. The brass bands of the Public Security Department and several Jordanian youth centres will participate in these activities.

Consultants study Karak's health services

KARAK (Petra) — A European consulting group, conducting a study in cooperation with the Health Ministry on a new government hospital in Karak governorate, and health services in the governorate, has concluded a five-day field visit to the governorate. At the end of their visit, the group submitted a detailed report on the governorate's health service requirements and priorities for upgrading health services provided by the ministry.

CAA chief leaves for Rabat

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Amin Al Husseini left for Rabat on Sunday to take part in a general assembly meeting of the Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC). Due to open Monday, the three-day meeting will discuss subjects connected with bolstering inter-Arab cooperation in civil aviation affairs and ACAC's general plan of work for the current year. Mr. Husseini is accompanied by Mr. Bassam Salaitah, the CAA's director of transport.

Captagon dealer sentenced to 8 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Sa'oud Musa Ibrahim Al Za'atari to eight years in prison and fined him JD 1,500 for dealing in captagon. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Iraqi farmers team visits Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A delegation from the Iraqi farmers association on Sunday met members of Aqaba cooperative societies and the delegation's leader Yassin Fada'am spoke about the Iran-Iraq war and its threat to the whole Arab region. He also exchanged views on future cooperation between Iraqi and Jordanian societies. The delegation later toured an area which has been planted with palm trees and they inspected projects run by Jordanian cooperative societies.

Haj Hassan visits centre for physically handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan on Sunday visited the Amman Centre run by Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped. The minister was briefed by Her Highness Princess Majda, who chairs the society, on its goals, present and future programmes and the centre's various activities.

Mr. Haj Hassan inspected the physiotherapy centre which provides services to 158 handicapped patients to improve their ability of movement. The medical engineering and vocational rehabilitation sections at the centre were also inspected by the minister.

Speaking about the centre's present and future activities, Princess Majda said that during 1986 the centre held an evaluation course for students who will benefit from the centre's services during the present year and it also graduated a batch of female students who received training in sewing. The centre, she continued, conducted a comprehensive survey on the students' families to examine their needs and to offer immediate monthly assistance to some needy students so that they can pursue their academic studies.

Princess Majda added that a new section for combating illiteracy will be established this year at the centre and that the centre will receive a new batch of students for vocational training in the fields of maintaining radio and television sets and that it will also hold flower arranging classes.

According to Mr. Obaid, the factory did not start production until 1984 and by that time, the total capital had risen to JD 16.5 million, acquired from shareholders and from foreign loans. The company now produces transparent and coloured glass panes of different thicknesses and

Glass factory expected to show profit after obtaining rescue package

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Glass Factory has taken a number of measures to promote its production to a level of 75 tonnes daily and it will continue to supply the local market with its requirement of tinted and clear glass in addition to exporting almost half of its production to Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, according to the director of the factory's board Farhi Obaid.

Mr. Obaid told a press conference on Sunday that the government has approved the company's procedures and has instructed the company's board to introduce measures that would improve the company's financial and technical capabilities.

This year, the glass factory is expected to make a profit of JD 320,000 and hopes to distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of eight percent in the coming year, Mr. Obaid added. He said that the company has just concluded a contract with Egypt to ship a consignment of glass to the Egyptian market on an experimental basis and that all the company's surplus production is being marketed abroad.

Mr. Obaid said that the company, which was established in 1974 with a capital of JD 1 million, had to introduce changes to produce tinted and coloured glass panes and had to increase its capital to JD 5 million. The factory, he said, is located near the southern city of Ma'an where a great deal of glass sand is available for glass production.

In addition to the government measures to support the company, major shareholders have now decided to increase their share, providing altogether JD 2 million in cash to ensure sufficient liquidity and to help the company honour its commitments. Mr. Obaid pointed out. Moreover, he said, five foreign companies have decided to write off 50 per cent of their total financial rights

shapes to meet the local market's needs, and the total production now stands at 35,000 tonnes daily and it will continue to supply the local market with its requirement of tinted and clear glass in addition to exporting almost half of its production to Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, according to the director of the factory's board Farhi Obaid.

Mr. Obaid announced that the government has decided to write off JD 2.5 million of the company's losses and to consider a JD 3.5 million loan from the treasury as part of the company's capital. In addition, he said, the government has pledged to add JD 2 million to the capital of the factory through participation from the Pension Fund, the Social Security Corporation, the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the Industrial Development and the Housing Bank. According to Mr. Obaid, the government has also agreed that the company pay back interest on a syndicate loan over the coming eight years instead of four and that the remainder of the debts be rescheduled and paid to the treasury at an interest rate of eight per cent with a four-year grace period.

Referring to past performances, Mr. Obaid said that the company faced problems which forced it to reduce its production rate from 75 tonnes a day to a mere 2.5 tonnes, and that this was reflected as JD 2.3 million in losses during 1985.

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Eighth medical mission leaves for Sudan armed with relief supplies, drugs

Jordan to assess programme and plans further assistance to drought victims, Crown Prince says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday that Jordan will conduct an assessment of the work and activities carried out by its medical missions in Sudan at the end of the present winter season, prior to embarking on new projects for the drought-stricken country.

The Crown Prince said that the medical missions have offered treatment to up to 700 Sudanese people daily and have carried out no less than 150 surgical operations on a monthly basis since the start of the missions operations in Sudan.

In a statement upon seeing off another medical mission to Sudan, Prince Hassan said that the second stage involves providing help to Sudan to enable the country to carry out irrigation and agricultural schemes. Contacts are underway with Islamic, Kuwaiti and Gulf funds in order to secure sufficient financing for these projects. Prince Hassan continued.

Jordan's support for Sudan is a

sincere effort to enable its people to overcome their ordeal and to deal with the drought and famine and it also reflects Jordan's total solidarity with the Sudanese people in addition to serving as an example for other Arab and Islamic countries in Africa. Prince Hassan added.

He said that the Jordanian aid to Sudan was greatly appreciated, not only by the Sudanese people but also by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), which considered it as a unique experiment. Plans are being drawn up for carrying out similar projects in Mali and Somalia with Arab and Islamic countries' help and cooperation. Prince Hassan pointed out.

The Crown Prince said that the health situation in areas where the Jordanian medical missions have been operating has shown a remarkable improvement following medical treatment provided to the local inhabitants and measures for protecting the environment and drinking water resources.

Jordan is now helping the Sudanese people to restore their water networks and to eliminate pests, the Crown Prince added.

The mission, the eighth of its kind to be flown to Sudan, comprises 10 doctors and four technicians and male nurses in addition to large quantities of medicine needed for the treatment of leprosy, clothing, school materials and other items.

The mission was seen off by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, the secretary general of the Jordanian committee for solidarity with the Sudanese people and other officials.

New law to pave the way for conversion of TCC into public shareholding co.

AMMAN (Petra) — Work will start soon to draft a special law for creating a public shareholding company to replace the present Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and the actual transformation will be carried out by Jordanian experts. Minister of Communications Muhiedine Al Husseini announced here on Sunday.

He said that feasibility studies on the project have been finalised by a British firm which had been carrying out these studies free of charge.

Mr. Husseini said that a financial firm will take over the process of introducing a new system for computing rates on a commercial basis, substituting the existing system which is being used by the TCC. The decision to transform the TCC into a public shareholding company operating on a commercial basis was taken by the government to promote telephone services to the public, the minister said. The projected company will require the employment of modern equipment and advanced apparatus to help cope with modern techniques in communications, the minister continued.

The shares of the projected company will be totally owned by the state, but the company will

have independent status with profits benefiting the treasury. Mr. Husseini pointed out. He said that the projected company will have an independent budget, like all other public agencies, but that the budget figures will not appear in the general national state budget.

The minister said that the transformation will save a great deal of trouble for the state in terms of employment because it will employ only specialists whose skills are needed for the work and this in turn will help improve productivity, skill and efficiency.

Applications for fines on hold

The Ministry of Communications has been receiving a large number of applications from the public for telephone lines and for expanding the existing telephone exchange systems to cover as many people as possible, Mr. Husseini said.

Hindawi receives memo on teaching chemistry in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Chemists Union (ACU), based in Baghdad, has sent a memorandum to Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi dealing with the subject of chemistry at schools and universities, and referring to the Ministry of Education's decision last year to make chemistry an optional subject for tawjih students in Jordanian schools.

All school students in the tawjih (third secondary class) have the option of studying chemistry and biology, although the subject of chemistry remains mandatory for the lower classes. The decision, which was taken in the past year, prompted many tawjih students to opt for biology as this subject is generally considered to be easier to study compared to chemistry.

The ACU referred to notes the University of Jordan and the Jordanian Chemists Society (JCS) on the issue of including chemistry in the tawjih courses and said that all schools of medicine and the faculties of agriculture, pure sciences and pharmacy require students to study chemistry, and the subject is therefore necessary

Jordan, which abounds with mineral wealth, requires the skills and qualification of chemists to exploit its resources and the memo underlined the need for school and university students to study chemistry.

The memo referred to notes the University of Jordan and the Jordanian Chemists Society (JCS) on the issue of including chemistry in the tawjih courses and said that all schools of medicine and the faculties of agriculture, pure sciences and pharmacy require students to study chemistry, and the subject is therefore necessary

Addressing the opening session, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib said the government has set up a higher committee on chemical industries



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Wonder of 1987

THE year 1987 could very well go down in the annals of our region's history as the year of interesting revelations. Last Friday, the White House released top secret documents which revealed that President Ronald Reagan had formally approved the arms sale to Iran. A day after, disclosures from a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee report revealed that an envoy of the then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, later identified as General Amiram Nir, had initiated the idea of diverting funds from the arms sale to Iran to the contras. In fact, the very idea of selling arms to Iran was in the first place initiated by Israel, according to reports emanating from the various investigations being conducted into the Irangate scandal.

Then comes to our region Mr. Richard Murphy, the U.S. Middle East envoy, ostensibly to repair the damage to U.S. credibility inflicted by the Irangate affair. How successful a repairman Murphy turns out to be is something that we cannot speculate on at this stage. But interestingly enough, as the U.S. official concluded his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, he told reporters that "this is a time for continued quiet diplomacy. This is the continuation of a constant search for peace among our friends in the Middle East." Then Murphy was off to Cairo, the third leg of his Middle East tour, after a brief stopover in Amman. Meanwhile, Shamir let it be known that Israel was in no mood to make territorial compromises with the Arabs and that his country would not give one inch of Arab territory in return for peace. And to top it all, Shamir also insisted on direct talks with Jordan out and away from the proposed international peace conference on the Palestinian problem.

As if to complete the symphony which is being conducted for us in the Middle East by the two famous maestros, the U.S. and Israel, Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, told Italian officials in Rome that the peoples of the Middle East had never been closer to peace and that now was the time to put the final touches to the symphony of peace in the Middle East. And just to make sure that there were no flat notes, Murphy told the press at the conclusion of his talks in Cairo with Mr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, the foreign minister of Egypt, at his side, that the U.S. rejected the idea of convening a committee to prepare for an international peace conference. He insisted, instead, that direct talks between the parties to the conflict still offered the best way to resolve the conflict. This happened while the Egyptian foreign minister kept reaffirming Egypt's commitment to the idea of the conference and the need to form a preparatory committee to lay the groundwork for it.

We are only less than two weeks into the new year of 1987, and we already have so many startling revelations and contradictions about events and positions in our region. What the next few weeks, or even the rest of January, hold for us, we do not know. What we, here in Jordan, are certain of though is that no political problem will be solved in the Middle East unless the Arab World moves first to get its act together. Then, and only then, will there be any hope of preempting startling revelations and surprises.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Soviets call for peace

THE Soviet Union has just renewed initiatives for resolving the Middle East issue and ending the Gulf conflict. In its call on the Middle East, Moscow said that a preparatory committee should be formed immediately to lay the ground for the proposed international conference in response to a United Nations General Assembly resolution. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that there was urgent need for speedy moves to bring peace to the Middle East which, he said, is being threatened with new conflicts. In the second initiative, Moscow said that all possible measures should be taken to settle the dispute between Baghdad and Tehran, and announced that it will put its weight behind any efforts towards achieving this end, and through the auspices of the United Nations. Both initiatives coincided with a new statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in which he rejected the idea of an international conference; and also coincided with a new U.S. move in the region at a time when the Gulf war is being escalated again. The Soviet call on the Middle East seems to be an attempt to end Israel's intransigent attitude and stop further American procrastinations, while the second initiative seems to be directed against ending the bloodshed in the Gulf region because it now appears clear for all that the U.S. is the sole beneficiary from the on-going war. We believe that there must be a joint Arab, favourable reaction to Moscow's calls and serious Arab efforts to benefit from the new opportunities.

Al Dustour: EC to discuss Mideast conflicts

BELGIAN Foreign Minister Leon Tindemans has announced that a meeting will be held by the European Community's foreign ministers to discuss the role the community might play with regard to the Middle East. But the announcement raises a number of questions and remarks with regard to the European stands over the Arab-Israeli conflict. First, there has been a general retreat in Europe's concern over the issue, something which could be interpreted as indifference and lack of interest as to the on-going events and developments in our region. More often than not the Europeans have been giving us lip-service without a single practical step to bring about stability and real peace to this region which is close to the European continent. Second, the Euro-Arab dialogue which had been going on for some time confined itself to a number of basic political differences, and no progress has ever been achieved. This dialogue was halted altogether with the retreat of the Middle East's oil revenues and wealth and the progressive weakness of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in which the Arab world used to play a major role. Third, the retreat in Europe's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East was coupled with a similar one on the part of the Arab world itself, over the past years displayed, no sincere efforts, nor did it show a unified position and a strong will for joint action. For this reason, Europe has relaxed its concern over Arab affairs, and no specific topics have been placed on the community agenda other than a general idea of discussing the Middle East situation. We regret such attitude, but it should be admitted that we have ourselves to blame for this unfavourable situation.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. stalls peace

WITH the advent of the new year, the American administration seems to be reviving its activity towards what is called "Giving momentum to the Middle East peace process." But we believe that Washington's new moves continue to follow earlier and unproductive patterns in its diplomatic initiatives, and its envoys to the region seem to be following the same course as their predecessors in the past year. We also believe that American diplomacy will continue to move in a vicious circle as long as the United States does not approve of the idea of an international peace conference.

Islamic summit has many questions to answer

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

AS preparations are under way in earnest for the convening of the forthcoming Islamic summit conference in Kuwait later this month, some relevant observations come to the forefront. The first that comes to one's mind in this regard is how different is the Organisation of Islamic Conference from that of the Non-Aligned Movement, which assembles all non-aligned states under one banner or even from the Group of 77 which encompasses all the developing countries under one umbrella. It will be noted that all the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference with the exception of one country, namely, Turkey, are also members of the Non-Aligned Movement. Likewise, all the member countries of the OIC with the exception of Turkey are also members of the group of 77. What then is the redeeming distinguishing denominator within the Organisation of Islamic Conference which makes it fundamentally different from the groupings that converge under the tent of the Group of 77 or the umbrella of the Non-Aligned Movement?

On face value, the Organisation of Islamic Conference seems to suffer from the same ills which had afflicted the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement, to wit, as the member states of these two groupings or gathering differ among themselves and between themselves in orientations and perspectives whether in the external or domestic concerns, one finds that the same ailments have also afflicted the Organisation of Islamic Conference. Within the Non-Aligned Movement, for example, it is hard to find a genuine full fledged non-aligned country in the true sense of the word. If anything most if not all are in fact aligned to one direction, policy or orientation or another which have very little in common with the perspectives of each and every other member country of the same movement. Likewise, there is hardly a workable common denominator which bridges the interests of the Group of 77 together. They are for all interests and purposes a conglomeration of varied states with a facade of unity over objectives. Their policies whether internal or external, and whether economic or political are so varied and diverse to the extent that they become repugnant to one another in more ways than one.

Against the backdrop of the preceding premises, one is hard pressed to find the situation is remarkably different within the OIC. The member countries which gather under the banner of Islamic unity and common ideology are anything but united and their respective ideologies are often repugnant to one another to the

extent that some of them are found killing one another not sporadically but rather in a systematic and continuous manner that has lasted, as in the case of Iran and Iraq, for over six years. The one singular culprit in the existing disarray and conflict between the Islamic countries could be traced to the proposition that they have not learned their lessons from the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77. The same facade of shared common destiny and objective which surrounds the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 also reign supreme under OIC umbrella.

But all is not lost for the OIC for it can still redeem itself by self-correcting and soul searching when it meets again in this year. Since the outstanding common denominator which serves as the *raison d'être* for the existence of the Islamic grouping is the religion of Islam in theology and practice, the leaders of the Islamic countries would be well advised to place on the top of their agenda the issue of how to make the tenets of Islam more relevant and pertinent to the conduct of their domestic and external affairs. In other words, since all the member countries of the OIC profess Islam as their guiding light and living standard, it is incumbent on the leaders of these countries who will represent them in the impending Islamic summit to review this matter of how to apply Islam on all fronts with keen and progressive eyes. In order to do so and introduce Islam in a progressive and enlightened manner, perhaps it would be wise to make it the first order of business to pursue this issue within a select committee to be elected by the Islamic leaders. The mandate of such committee, which will eventually report back to the OIC, should cover such items as the ways and means to effect a workable unity and harmony between the various Islamic sects with a view to serve as a foundation for future true Islamic understanding and cooperation.

Another pressing issue which the OIC could also pursue within the said select committee could be the critical and pressing subject of how to open ajar again the *Bab Al Ijtihad*, i.e., the door of progressive interpretation of the tenets of Islam which has been kept closed for nearly one thousand years. Some Islamic theologians maintain that the malaise in the Islamic world is organically linked with the long durated closing of the *Bab Al Ijtihad* — one of the pillars of Islamic Shari'a, the source of Islamic law and jurisprudence. The validity of this observation has yet to be tested and scrutinised and there is no better place to examine this issue in its totality than within the OIC in and by its proposed select committee.

On the domestic fronts, the Islamic countries have a lot to do and accomplish in order to get even close to the Islamic sense of social and economic justice. Poverty is more rampant in Islamic countries than in non-Islamic countries, a situation which does not augur well for the OIC. On almost all fronts the members of the OIC are among the least developed and backward countries of the world, a phenomenon which is equally alarming and threatening to the general status of the Islamic countries within the international community of nations. One can no longer gloss over these negative characteristics which paint the Islamic world. It is high time that Islamic leaders address them and address other pressing issues which damage the image and civilisation of contemporary Islam.

On the foreign front, the Islamic world is indeed in a calamitous situation with brothers killing one another in more than one region. Witness if you please the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq which has already consumed many thousands of lives on both sides of the conflict. The continuation of that war is a living testimony that all is not well in the Islamic world and that something profound and real is wrong with it. Any protestations to the contrary and any facade to the opposite contrary can no longer fool or deceive any one especially the Islamic peoples themselves. Equally grave in the perpetual fratricidal armed conflicts in Lebanon which also have been going on for over ten years. The inability of the OIC to put an end to such armed conflicts raises questions about the relevancy of the OIC and its future. One can name many other situations in the world where the Islamic countries have failed to act effectively and coherently thus giving rise to the persisting speculation that the Islamic civilisation is in a deep crisis which has to be addressed and rectified in a head-on manner.

The challenges before the OIC are, therefore, great and fundamental. How it proposes to deal with them will surely determine its viability and relevancy. Otherwise, it will become another loose association of states with only superficialities that unite them and assemble them. The OIC is a young organisation and the possibilities and opportunities which are available to it are wide open. Literally the sky is the limit on what it could do and do effectively, coherently and sensibly. We all pray to God that the history of Islam and Islamic countries, Amen.

European leadership changes had pivotal role in U.S. relations

By Helmut Schmidt

The following is the second in a two-part article that appeared recently in the West German newspaper, *Die Zeit*. The writer is former West German chancellor. The first part appeared in yesterday's issue of the Jordan Times.

At present, and probably in the foreseeable future, the conceivable degree of independence for the countries of Eastern Europe will depend to a decisive extent on Western Europe's success or failure in the pursuit of its interests.

If Western Europe were to succeed in exerting influence on overall U.S. strategy in the direction of a balance of military power, arms limitation and troop reduction, and corresponding agreements with the Soviet Union, would be bound to strengthen the Eastern European countries.

Washington tends to make full play with the U.S. clout both within the alliance and towards the European Community, just as it does at the annual Western economic summits where Japan is regularly represented alongside America, Canada and Western Europe.

Washington today tends to be egocentric and isolationist in its egoism. Europeans must come to realise that such U.S. inclinations tend to be reinforced, and not offset, by Europe's submissiveness.

The evident decline in influence of Western European governments on Washington is due in part to leadership changes in Paris, London and Bonn.

But a more important part was (and continues to be) played by the international economic structural crisis beginning in 1973/74 and, more particularly, by the second round of oil price increases in 1979 and 1980.

Between them they left the countries of Western Europe and the European Community

indispensable. So there is no real risk of the Atlantic alliance breaking up no matter how often some pundits may seek to shock us with this vision.

Yet opportunities exist, and ought not to be forgotten, of economic and strategic emancipation for Western Europe within the framework of this alliance.

Germany will remain by far the most important and most powerful ally in military, political and economic terms.

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But a more important part was (and continues to be) played by the international economic structural crisis beginning in 1973/74 and, more particularly, by the second round of oil price increases in 1979 and 1980.

Between them they left the countries of Western Europe and the European Community

incapable of a concerted attempt to cope with their fresh round of economic woes and of arriving at a joint approach to America's forthright policy of running up budget deficits that has weighed heavily on the entire world since 1982.

Indeed, since 1981 even progress towards integration of the European Community, which the United States has in no way hampered, has slowed down substantially under pressure from the economic structural crisis.

This is a point on which no illusions must be harboured despite the accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal to the community.

On the monetary front the community was neither in a position to forestall, cushion or offset the wildest vagaries of the dollar exchange rate nor capable, in recent years, of expanding its own monetary system, the EMS, set up in 1979, or its currency unit, the ECU.

On the financial front the European Community is common with Japan or, for instance, the Latin American countries, has since 1982 had to suffer a large part of its accumulated capital and savings being exported from Europe to finance U.S. budget deficits, leaving investment quotas within the European Community inadequate and continued high unemployment as a result.

Thus Europe today lacks a strategic concept for both security and economic policy. Europe lacks leadership. Its heads of government are preoccupied with unrest in their own chicken-run.

In the past 40 years Europe has more than once enjoyed the benefit of leaders with long-term orientation, such as Churchill,

Monnet and Schuman, Adenauer, de Gasperi, de Gaulle.

Britain today would hardly be inclined to assume the leadership because British mentality and tradition repeatedly make Britons feel maintaining their special relationship with the Americans is more important than their heavily accepted identity of interest with the continent.

The Federal Republic of Germany is clearly ruled out as a leading power in view of recent German history and the division of the country.

Various reasons would seem to rule out as illusory any idea of a lead being given by Italy or Spain or the smaller countries of Western Europe.

Those who place their hopes instead on collective leadership being given by, say, the European Commission or the Council of Ministers in Brussels or the European Council of European Community heads of government ought realistically to abandon hope in view of the constant harmless inefficiency of these bodies.

That leaves the possibility of French leadership. In the early 1960s President de Gaulle was willing and able to give the lead. Germany would have done better to follow his lead; Italy and the Benelux countries would have followed suit.

In 1963 the opportunity was missed by all parties in the Bundestag, but that need not mean it has been missed for all time. It does, however, presuppose a courageous, strong-willed French leader.

He must be resolved to integrate the French armed forces in a joint Western European defence concept. He must also be able to make out a credible and

acceptable case to his fellow-countrymen for this future French role.

French and German conventional forces alone would be almost enough to amount to an adequate counterweight to the massed conventional forces of the Soviet Union and to strike a balance of power.

A defender does not by any means need exactly the same number of troops as an attacker. There would, of course, need to be a French supreme commander. There would also need to be a certain amount of extra conventional equipment and, of course, extra defence estimates.

The financial resources of the Federal Republic are, of course, somewhat greater than those of France. They will need to be made available.

There are more politicians in France than in Germany who can lay claim to long-term foresight and they know that in the long term only a close Franco-German entente can firmly integrate the Federal Republic in the West and lend legitimacy to our German hopes.

In the long run that is something the new political elite from the south and west of the United States will not be able to do.

Under resolute French leadership, with Germany firmly resolved to cooperate, three main tasks could be solved by the end of the century:

— Speeding up what at present is a very slow and foot-dragging process of economic integration within the community framework by expanding the European Monetary System and setting up an independent, joint central banking authority first to control the ECU and, second, to ensure the existence of an adequate

counterweight to the dollar and the yen.

— Setting up a conventional military alliance including France.

— Drawing up a joint security and overall strategy.

Once it is clear that Europe's future self-assertion will largely depend on whether and how France is to play a leading role in Europe, the Continental countries will surely accept a French leading role.

The United States too, as the most generous country in the world, would not withhold its acceptance either if only it could be sure that European developments, although they might reform the organisation of the North Atlantic pact, would consolidate, not jeopardise, its survival.

After all, the Americans would even be spared the need to maintain part of their military presence, a presence that is growing ever more burdensome, in Europe.

The European Defence Community as planned in the early 1950s did not envisage an American supreme commander either. Soviet political leaders may be shocked by such aspects of this future European development. They are bound to fear the effect it may have on their own empire.

But they would tend to welcome the political and military incorporation of the Federal Republic and eventually come to accept it.

Are these vain hopes, dreams, illusions? The faint of heart and those with a clerical turn of mind might feel so.

But such hopes are no less realistic than the views espoused by John F. Kennedy in 1962 and by Charles de Gaulle in 1963.

362 die in road accidents

(Continued from page 1)

from 33 deaths for the same number of cars in 1980; 54 in 1975 and 77 in 1973.

"The fact that the number of accidents dropped last year in comparison to previous years is due largely to the awareness of the motorists and pedestrians, coupled with drastic and deterrent measures adopted by the PSD's Traffic Department," Gen. Majali pointed out.

Gen. Majali said that the PSD Department last year registered 477,796 traffic violations, up from 404,079 violations in 1985, an increase of about 18 percent, but the majority of violations were for speeding or parking in a prohibited area.

Gen. Majali stated three reducing factors which contributed to the reduction of the number of accidents. They were:

—

Arab capital flight and external debt

By Dr. Michel I. Marto

The following is a paper presented on Sunday to the Arab Thought Forum seminar on alternative policies to face Arab external debt. The author of the paper is deputy general manager of the Bank of Jordan, Amman.

MANY believe that capital flight on a large scale is among the reasons for the external debt problems of Arab countries. As foreign debt becomes more of a burden on these countries, people are becoming more aware of the capital flight phenomenon. This paper will attempt to deal with the following questions:

a) what is the role of foreign capital in economic development and what are the consequences of foreign borrowing?

What is capital flight and how is it measured?

c) What are the underlying causes of capital flight?

d) What policy reforms should Arab governments adopt to deal with capital flight?

The debt servicing difficulties of developing countries have raised many questions about the role of foreign capital in economic development. Until the late seventies there was a general agreement that developing countries could and should borrow more capital from abroad. This consensus has now been broken and officials are trying to find new approaches to deal with debt servicing and economic development of LDCs.

Capital has usually flowed from richer to poorer countries. Developing countries face a scarcity of capital in general and need external borrowing to supplement their domestic savings.

Foreign borrowing has two potential benefits for a developing country. It can promote growth through increased investment and technology transfer and it can help an economy to adjust to internal and external shocks. But recent experience has shown that borrowing also has potential disadvantages. It can be misused so that countries end up with more debt but no corresponding increase in their ability to service it. It allows governments to delay essential economic reforms. It is right to borrow but only if countries follow appropriate policies and invest in economically justified projects.

Countries, therefore, must attempt to obtain the benefits of capital inflows while taking reasonable precautions to avoid debt servicing difficulties. Foreign borrowing was not meant to finance the consequences of large budget deficits, overvalued exchange rates, and measures that discourage domestic savings, all of which bias an economy to rely on foreign capital.

In the early stages of development, returns to

investment are generally higher than in industrialised countries. This is the basic economic justification for developing countries to obtain capital from abroad. This is part of the so-called debt cycle whereby a country starts by being a young debtor, then a mature debtor, after which it becomes a debt reducer, then a young creditor and finally a mature creditor.

Efficiency in the public sector is crucial because public sector investment accounts for a high proportion of total domestic investment in the Arab World. The rapid growth of public sector investment was the precursor to

To stem capital flight, Arab countries must provide a stable political, financial and macroeconomic environment which would go a long way towards reducing domestic uncertainty.

later debt servicing difficulties as too much investment have gone into projects that have failed to generate increases in output.

Government policies profoundly influence the type and volume of private investments in the Arab World. Many governments wanting to promote domestic manufacturing industries, protect them with import barriers and subsidise their costs through repressed interest rates and overvalued exchange rates. The result of such measures is to boost consumption and encourage local producers to concentrate on the domestic market. They therefore neglect exports, further reducing the foreign exchange earnings needed to service foreign debts.

Basically two major shifts in international capital have occurred in the past twenty years: from equity to debt and from official to private finance. The increased lending by foreign commercial banks to recycle oil surpluses in the seventies was the main reason for the dramatic increase in external financing. This was also accompanied by a large increase in export credits. As a result the ratio of debt service to exports rose drastically and the ratio of debt to GNP increased significantly.

Measuring capital flight is difficult and this is even true for

flat, which has made the battle extremely difficult for both and especially for the Iraqis. According to the sources, the Iraqis had been able to infiltrate many axes in that area, but only to be confronted by Iraqi soldiers who fought hand-to-hand battles in which bayonets were used.

'Cities war' escalates

Meanwhile, the Iran-Iraq war has also taken another dangerous dimension as both sides escalated their "cities war". Iraq, which had refrained from retaliating against Iranian shelling of civilian targets for the last six months, retaliated for the first time on Friday by shelling two Iranian towns. There was a new Iraqi attack against the city of Qom on Sunday.

According to official sources, Iraq feels that Arab and Islamic countries would understand that it could not have remained silent while Iran continued to shell its cities.

Army or Revolutionary Guards?

It was not clear until Sunday whether the current offensive is carried out by the Iranian regular army or the Revolutionary Guards, but one theory endorsed by diplomats here is that the regular army is executing the latest offensive. The argument is that the Iranian failure two weeks ago reflected a defeat of the mullahs since the Revolutionary Guards were heavily involved in it. There has always been a competition between the military institution and the mullahs, represented by the guards, so if there was a victory, the military became stronger in Iran. "But if they were defeated a balance of power will emerge," one well-informed diplomat said.

U.S. official proposes dropping missile ban

(Continued from page 1)

"In question also is his management of foreign policy, including his pledge not to pay ransom to terrorists and his rounds with Congress over aiding the contras."

Versions of a Senate Intelligence Committee's report on the Iran affair and documents that have been made public show "humiliating evidence of its

proper role of foreign capital is to supplement domestic savings. It must never substitute for it. Unfortunately, for many Arab countries foreign borrowing has been an attractive alternative to increased savings. These countries ran into debt servicing difficulties and the net result was a further setback to their economic development.

Experience has shown that countries following prudent fiscal policies rarely experience prolonged difficulties with their external payments. A payment crisis is usually preceded by large and growing budget deficits as governments lose control of their budgetary process. There is a positive relationship between growing government deficits and the accumulation of debt.

Large scale capital flight is often measured as an important cause of the external debt problems of developing countries and at the same time it is believed that the rapid rise in foreign debt of many developing countries has financed capital flight.

Certainly for some of the major debtor countries the aggregate data for recent years tend to support this view. Capital flight is a serious problem that deprives a country of utilising its resources for growth and contributes to its external debt problems. At a time when a country is importing capital to supplement domestic resources, we find that a large portion of past external borrowing has been offset by capital outflows. In addition to limiting the funds available to finance domestic investment and growth, the debt servicing capacity is further reduced to the extent that earnings on assets abroad are not repatriated.

The term capital flight in the narrow sense refers to short term "speculative" capital outflows by the private non-bank sector and involves "hot money" that responds to political or financial crises, the tightening of capital controls and the fear of major devaluation of the domestic currency. Others define capital flight more broadly as the gross value of all capital exports from an economy regardless whether they reflect the purchase of foreign financial assets (such as deposits at banks, Bonds, Treasury Bills, shares etc.), real assets (real estate) or direct foreign investment by domestic residents. Some would even consider the massive emigration of highly trained professionals to be a form of capital flight, namely, human capital flight. For the purpose of this paper, the term capital flight refers to the broad definition "gross capital outflows" and excludes human capital.

Basically two major shifts in international capital have occurred in the past twenty years: from equity to debt and from official to private finance. The increased lending by foreign commercial banks to recycle oil surpluses in the seventies was the main reason for the dramatic increase in external financing. This was also accompanied by a large increase in export credits. As a result the ratio of debt service to exports rose drastically and the ratio of debt to GNP increased significantly.

Measuring capital flight is difficult and this is even true for

countries that impose no restrictions on capital outflows, because of the imprecision with which financial transactions are often reported in the balance of payments. Measurement problems become more difficult in countries with exchange controls. There are some forms of capital flight such as those carried out through underinvoicing of exports and over invoicing of imports. Such capital flight escapes detection and is an important mechanism for evading capital controls. A recent study examined the reported exports of a number of LDCs to the total imports as reported by their trading partners. It was found that the extent of underinvoicing reaches 37 per cent. Between 1976 and 1984, Malaysia's reported exports fell \$10 billion short of their FOB value recorded by its trading

countries that impose no restrictions on capital outflows. It must never substitute for it. Unfortunately, for many Arab countries foreign borrowing has been an attractive alternative to increased savings. These countries ran into debt servicing difficulties and the net result was a further setback to their economic development.

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they reflect the purchase of foreign

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Various studies have attempted

to calculate the size of capital

outflows of high debt developing

countries by using indirect

methods. In one study (Dooley

and others) estimates of gross

private capital outflows were

reached by subtracting from

reported changes in gross external

debt, the current account deficit

and net foreign assets of the

Central Bank and the Commercial

banks. Another study (Morgan

Guarantee) used this methodology

with minor refinement. A third study (Institute of International

Finance) estimates capital flight as

the difference between total

debt-creating capital inflows and

identified capital outflows. For a

similar group of Latin American

countries, the estimates by

Morgan correspond to those of the

I.I.F. But the estimates for a

similar group of Asian countries

differ significantly with net asset

flows amounting to \$4 billion by

the I.I.F. and \$12 billion by

Morgan. In another study (Cuddington) capital flight was

defined as gross private short term

capital flows plus net errors and

omissions in the country's balance of

payments. It is argued that the

major evidence of capital flight is

often in the "errors and

omissions" item in the Balance of

Payments account which reflect in

large part unrecorded capital flows.

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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshon

The following report summarises trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at Halim Salfiti and Sons Co.

AMMAN — Last week the dollar has performed quite, sliding to the lower side regarding the Deutschmark (DM), the Swiss franc (SF) and the Japanese yen. It slipped below 0.340 fils on the Jordanian Dinar (JD) to reach to a low of 0.339 fils.

Activity in the Jordanian market has slowed down throughout 1986 and reactivated in the beginning of 1987. The latest rates quoted for the JD against the dollar were between 0.343 fils to 0.346 fils. The ranges for the dollar/JD this week are expected to be 0.344-348.

Trading in the European currencies

The pound sterling has improved from a low of 0.5020 fils to 0.5085 fils. This improvement was in reaction for expected higher oil prices and better interest rates in the U.K.

The DM, SF and yen moved to record highs in the new year in reaction to a weaker dollar and unexpected relatively lower economic performances in the United States in the previous year in addition to the deepening

budget deficit figures released at the end of December 1986.

The European currencies have moved higher on the JD despite a stronger JD at the end of December.

The DM traded between 0.171 fils to 0.181 fils, the SF traded between 0.208 to 0.2111 fils and the yen between 0.00125 to 0.00215 fils.

Trading in metals

Gold has jumped to a high of \$400 an ounce in New York from a low of \$398.25 an ounce last week. Silver improved to \$5.50 an ounce from a low of \$5.35 an ounce.

Expected trading ranges for this week are as follows:

Gold \$402 - \$412 an ounce
Silver \$5.40 - \$5.60 an ounce.

Trading in Arab currencies

Lebanese lira (LL) scored a new low to the dollar hitting LL 96 but closed last week at the level of 87 to the dollar (210 to the JD) and if the political situation keeps on deteriorating the lire is expected to slide further down.

Gold prices in Amman, based on the daily bulletin provided by the Jordan Jewelry Store, are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD 3.75 - JD 3.90
Gold per gramme 18 carats JD 3.30 - JD 3.95.

WHO may cut activities because of cash crisis

GENEVA (R) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) may have to cut about one-tenth of planned future activities because of an expected \$50 million shortfall in contributions from its 166 member states, its top official said.

In a report on the United Nations agency's budget for 1988-89, WHO Director General Hildebrand Mahler of Denmark said this was due to a current financial crisis afflicting the United Nations which he assumed would continue throughout these two years.

The proposed budget to finance WHO programmes aimed at combating disease and raising health levels worldwide during this period totalled \$636.9 million. Mr. Mahler said.

"But unless a radical change takes place, a huge shortfall in

income from contributions is to be expected and it will most probably not be possible to carry out at least 10 per cent of the proposed programme activities because of lack of funds," he added.

Mr. Mahler estimated the lag in future contributions at \$1 million, and said \$35 million had been cut provisionally from the current 1986-87 budget because of the financial crisis.

His report will be discussed at a two-week session of the WHO executive board opening here on Monday.

Mr. Mahler said the WHO had been the first U.N. body to identify and remedy administrative shortcomings, and it was "now being unfairly victimised because of financial and other strictures imposed on the United Nations as a whole."

N. Sea oil output declines

LONDON (OPECNA) — Latest figures on North Sea oil production have shown the first annual decline in output from the U.K. sector since oil first came onstream.

Figures released here by the Royal Bank of Scotland show that average output in 1986 ranged between 2.5 million and 2.6 million barrels per day, one per cent below the 1985 average.

The bank has predicted that some 10,000 jobs could be saved in Scotland if oil production cuts agreed by OPEC were able to hold North Sea oil prices close to \$20 a

barrel.

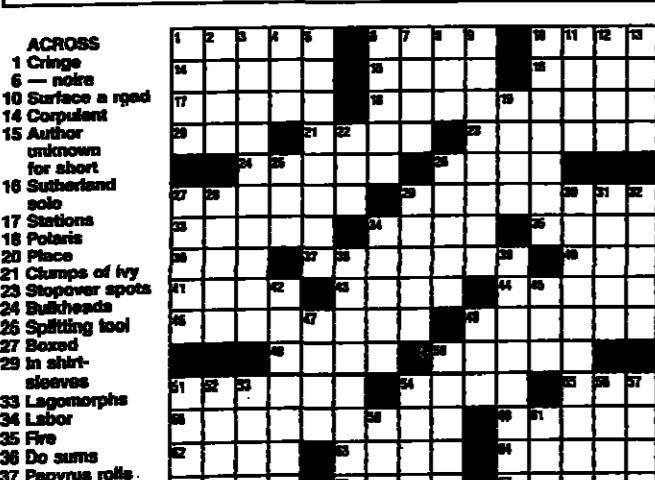
The bank, however, forecast that "if the oil price remains low and volatile, 33,000 jobs could be lost, of which up to 18,000 would directly involve the oil industry."

It said: "If OPEC manages to limit production to about 16 million b/d under the latest agreement, and to establish fixed prices of about \$18 a barrel, the price of North Sea oil ... could stabilise at \$20 a barrel."

The bank said that at \$20 a barrel, some North Sea fields that had seemed uneconomic had started to look attractive again.

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

6 Companies	7 Elephants	8 Slaughter	9 Crag	10 Captivate	11 Pale colors	12 Civilization	13 Advanced	14 Ampoule	15 Corn units	16 Corn units	17 Dolt talk	18 Dotted	19 Dotted	20 Dotted	21 Dotted	22 Dotted	23 Dotted	24 Dotted	25 Dotted	26 Dotted	27 Dotted	28 Dotted	29 Dotted	30 Dotted	31 Dotted	32 Dotted	33 Dotted	34 Dotted	35 Dotted	36 Dotted	37 Dotted	38 Dotted	39 Dotted	40 Dotted	41 Dotted	42 Dotted	43 Dotted	44 Dotted	45 Dotted	46 Dotted	47 Dotted	48 Dotted	49 Dotted	50 Dotted	51 Dotted	52 Dotted	53 Dotted	54 Dotted	55 Dotted	56 Dotted	57 Dotted	58 Dotted	59 Dotted	60 Dotted	61 Dotted	62 Dotted	63 Dotted	64 Dotted	65 Dotted	66 Dotted	67 Dotted	68 Dotted	69 Dotted	70 Dotted	71 Dotted	72 Dotted	73 Dotted	74 Dotted	75 Dotted	76 Dotted	77 Dotted	78 Dotted	79 Dotted	80 Dotted	81 Dotted	82 Dotted	83 Dotted	84 Dotted	85 Dotted	86 Dotted	87 Dotted	88 Dotted	89 Dotted	90 Dotted	91 Dotted	92 Dotted	93 Dotted	94 Dotted	95 Dotted	96 Dotted	97 Dotted	98 Dotted	99 Dotted	100 Dotted
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Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Study predicts high need for workers in Mideast

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Despite the oil slump, Middle Eastern countries will need about 1.5 million more foreign workers over the next five years to maintain necessary economic growth, a Philippine government study says.

The study, published over the weekend, said manpower requirements by Saudi Arabia and other major oil states will be great enough to prevent any major slump in the number of Asians finding jobs in that region.

The study, by the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), noted that Saudi Arabia will require 200,000 new migrant workers by 1990, 60 per cent of whom hold professional jobs.

Another government report said that although the overall economy in the Philippines grew slightly in 1986, industrial production declined by 3.7 per cent and investments fell by 15 per cent.

The National Economic Development Authority said that gains made in the country's gross national product were offset by a 2.4 per cent increase in population to 56 million people.

The report said last year's 0.1 per cent increase in the country's economic output reversed the decline of the previous two years, but full economic recovery will depend on continuing political stability, renegotiation of the \$26 billion foreign debt and implementation of more reforms.

Foreign business sources blame the lack of investment of fears of political instability over negotiations with communist rebels.

The IEA noted that consumption was relatively stable in the Pacific last year while there was a two per cent year-on-year increase in North America and a four per cent rise in Europe.

But despite recent growth, OECD oil use last year was still nearly seven million b/d below the 1979 peak, mainly because of lower heavy fuel oil sales, it said.

Use of heavy fuel oil, for industry, power stations, heavy vehicles and shipping, was expected to continue to decline this year as natural gas was projected to regain much of the market it lost to heavy fuel in the United States and Europe in 1986.

The report gave no estimates for OPEC output for this year but the data suggest non-communist world demand for OPEC crude in January-March 1987 of 18.5 million b/d, market experts said.

This compares with OPEC's recently-agreed ceiling of 15.8 million b/d for the first and second

IEA sees 1.5 per cent increase in Western oil consumption during 1987

PARIS (R) — Oil consumption in Western industrialised countries is likely to rise in 1987 but at a slower rate than in recent years, according to International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasts released Monday.

Oil use in the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will increase by 1.5 per cent in the first nine months of this year after a 2.5 per cent rise for the year 1986 to 34.8 million barrels per day (b/d), the IEA said in its latest monthly oil market report.

The report said initial data for Jan. 1, 1987 indicated that stocks on land in OECD countries totalled 443 million tonnes, representing 97 days of forward consumption.

This compared with 426 million tonnes and 93 days on Jan. 1 last year.

Company stocks on land in the OECD on Jan. 1, 1987 were put around 342 million tonnes, representing 75 days of forward consumption, 13 million tonnes higher than a year earlier.

The IEA said that company stocks were estimated to have declined by 1.1 million b/d in the last three months of 1987 after increasing by 1.1 million b/d and two million b/d in the second and third quarters, respectively.

Oil stocks on land in the United States and Canada on Jan. 1, 1987 were estimated at 217.1 million tonnes, representing 98 days of forward consumption, against 208.7 million and 94 days on July 1, 1986 and 206.2 million and 94 days on Jan. 1, 1986.

In Europe, stocks on land on Jan. 1 were put at 154.1 million tonnes, giving 93 days of forward consumption, compared with 146 million and 96 days on July 1, 1986 and 148.4 million and 90 days on Jan. 1, 1986.

The report gave no estimates for OPEC output for this year but the data suggest non-communist world demand for OPEC crude in January-March 1987 of 18.5 million b/d, market experts said.

This compares with OPEC's recently-agreed ceiling of 15.8 million b/d for the first and second

quarters.

The report said total OPEC crude production in fourth quarter 1986 was 16.9 million b/d, approximately matching OPEC's effective ceiling for the period, compared with 19.3 million and 17.6 million in October-December 1985.

It said the output drop was due to overproduction by Arab Gulf states being largely offset by underproduction in Iran because of damage to oil installations from the war with Iraq.

Norway likely to cut oil output this week

Meanwhile, Norway, Western Europe's second biggest oil producer, is likely to cut production by between seven and eight per cent later this month, in line with OPEC policy to boost prices, government sources said last week.

They added, however, that total Norwegian oil production would continue to rise because several new offshore fields were due to come start producing later in the year, and the new output would outweigh any curbs made to cooperate with OPEC.

Oslo was hoping the psychological effect of Norwegian cooperation with OPEC would contribute to at least stabilising crude prices and possibly nudge them towards \$20 a barrel from their current position around \$18.

Oil companies operating in the North Sea say \$20 oil is the level at which field development projects that have been shelved while oil prices were low could be reactivated.

Norway, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has supported the group's new

strategy worked out in Geneva last month in a bid to attain higher petroleum prices.

The sources told Reuters the Norwegian government would probably announce its decision to cut output this week, and the curbs would probably be enforced from all major Norwegian fields for the first six months of 1987, the sources told Reuters.

An oil and energy ministry spokesman declined to say whether Norway would make the cut, but said an announcement would probably be made this week.

Oil companies which would bear much of the cost of reduced production have objected strongly to curbing output, but the government has legislation it can use to enforce reduced production from Norway's six offshore oilfields.

Norway's daily output

Marcos supporters, leftists rally against constitution

Aquino urges 'yes' vote in plebiscite

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Thousands of supporters of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos burned copies of the draft constitution Sunday, and leftists marched through the streets denouncing the charter as "anti-people."

Meanwhile, President Corazon Aquino urged modest but enthusiastic crowds in three cities of central and southern Luzon to vote "yes" in the Feb. 2 constitutional plebiscite.

Some 3,000 loyalists chanted "Marcos, Marcos" as rally leaders tossed copies of the draft constitution into a fire during a boisterous rally in suburban Quezon city.

Speakers told the crowd the constitution "stinks" and one of them said it "will cause much hardship not only to our generation but to our children's children."

Later, some 5,000 delegates to a conference of the Movement of the Proletarians marched through Manila after approving a resolution opposing ratification.

The group, affiliated with the leftist Bayan (country) Movement, claimed the charter is "full of anti-people provisions and strengthens the control of foreign interests in the country's politics." The charter was completed last October by an Aquino-appointed commission.

Spokesman Leto Villar claimed his group was an alliance of 500

worker, student, peasant and urban poor organisations with a half million members.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Aquino urged voters to approve the charter to reinforce democratic gains won during last February's "people power" revolution against Marcos.

At a meeting with civic group representatives in Malolos, Mrs. Aquino denied rightwing charges that she is a "dictator" and that the charter will reinforce her power.

Juan Ponce Enrile, sacked last November as minister of defence, has called on voters recently to reject the constitution and end Mrs. Aquino's "revolutionary dictatorship."

"Don't believe them," she said of the opposition. "My government is primarily a consultative government."

Mrs. Aquino has pledged to campaign personally for ratification every weekend until the plebiscite.

An estimated 7,000 people, many of them government employees, turned out for her first rally Sunday in Angeles City, a garrison city of U.S. servicemen

located some 80 kilometres north of Manila.

Afterward, she addressed about 1,500 people in Malolos, capital of Bulacan province, and then left for a third rally in Lucena city in Quezon province.

Local government officials expressed confidence in a strong "yes" vote in Angeles City.

But the crowd was considerably smaller than the estimated 50,000 supporters who greeted her in Angeles City shortly before the Feb. 25 overthrow of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Hours before her arrival, about 150 leftists arrived at the rally site carrying banners demanding the release of Communist leader Rodofo Salas. Salas was arrested Sept. 29 in Manila and charged with rebellion.

The release of Salas is among 10 "priority" demands being made by the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF), which is negotiating an end to the 18-year Communist rebellion.

A police lieutenant tried to block the leftists from entering the grounds but relented after they assured him they were not there to campaign for rejection of the constitution.

At the Angeles City rally, Mrs. Aquino expressed her "heartfelt thanks for helping me ratify this new constitution so that the true democracy we attained in the February revolution will be maintained."

Hundreds killed as Burmese truce crumbles

RANGOON (R) — More than 760 Communist rebels and Burmese government troops have been killed during the past two months in heavy fighting near the Chinese border, official reports said Sunday.

The reports said fighting erupted on Nov. 16 when a 1,500-strong Burmese Communist Party (BCP) force broke an unofficial 16-year-truce and launched a surprise assault on government positions in north east Burma.

It seized mountain camps at Hsi Wan and Ta Pang but were forced to withdraw when the government counter-attacked.

The reports, published in official newspapers, said 175 government soldiers and 591 rebels were killed.

Burmese state radio said some 18 major battles and 20 additional clashes had taken place since November and fighting still continued with government forces in pursuit of fleeing rebels.

The radio, monitored in Bangkok, said the army sent two light infantry divisions from its North East Military Command to recapture the positions and last week widened the battles by routing guerrillas from their stronghold at Kyuhkok on the Sino-Burmese border.

The newspapers said army Chief of Staff Gen. Saw Maung visited Kyuhkok and other combat areas Saturday and Friday.

Informants said the latest fighting was reminiscent of large scale clashes in the area involving thousands of government and Communist Forces in the late 1970s.

Prior to the latest flare-up of fighting, military engagements mostly involved small guerrilla skirmishes.

The attack on Hsi Wan and Ta Pang broke an unofficial 16-year truce in the area between the government and the Communists, who are militarily the strongest among dozens of rebel groups who have been fighting the central government since Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948.

Secret talks between the government and the BCP broke down in 1981 over what officials and diplomats in Rangoon said were unacceptable Communist demands, including virtual autonomy for BCP-held areas in the Shan state near the Chinese border.

As a further sign of improving relations with the West, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan will pay visit Warsaw on Thursday and Friday, the first visit to the highest level of U.S. visit since the military crackdown.

Although economic and trade matters are to be discussed in his talks with Italian officials, the Jaruzelski trip is also important symbolically for the Polish leader.

Gen. Jaruzelski has been stung by the cautious response from the United States and its allies to what Polish officials portray as significant steps toward political liberalisation since martial law was lifted in July 1983.

Italy and Poland this month signed an agreement rescheduling Polish debts to Italy.

With the next round starting on

Tutu says justice is not a political demand

MELBOURNE, Australia (Agencies) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa on Sunday said the call for justice by anti-apartheid activists was a moral rather than a political demand.

"To demand justice is not a political demand, but a religious demand," said Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, addressing 1,500 people at St. Paul's Cathedral.

"We want our righteous rulers — who are not God — if you do not give justice to our people you will bite the dust," he said.

Tutu, on a 12-day visit as guest of the Uniting Church National Council of Youth, also spoke of children who had been detained in jails since June, some as young as 11 years old.

"How could an 11-year-old threaten a political state with as powerful a military as South Africa?" he asked.

Tutu said he condemned a system which said the worth of a person depended on his colour, where communities were uprooted and people forced to relocate because of their colour and where a state of emergency blocked people from seeing "what continues to happen, where the brutality of the state is turned on peaceful protesters."

Tutu called for an end to the state of emergency, the release of political prisoners and for all parties to be able to go to the negotiating table.

Meanwhile a black man was burned to death in South Africa's biggest township as political violence continued in spite of new

government measures, the government's Bureau for Information said Sunday.

It said the victim was killed in Soweto township, near Johannesburg, Saturday when unidentified attackers put a burning tire round his neck.

The same gruesome method of killing — known as the "necklace" — has been used to kill scores of people in black townships since the present wave of violence began nearly three years ago.

Many of those killed in this way have been accused by black radicals of collaborating with the white minority government.

Last week, the government stepped up its efforts to stamp out the violence by banning the promotion of plans by anti-apartheid activists for alternative education for black schools.

It also imposed restrictions on reports about the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), the main black nationalist organisation fighting to end white rule.

In a separate development, the country's two largest English newspaper chains told the government Saturday they will challenge in court new restrictions that bar reporting on the African National Congress and other outlawed organisations.

The new restrictions were issued Thursday after newspapers across the country had published paid advertisements marking the 75th anniversary of the ANC under the headline, "urban the ANC."

Paper declares socialism as China's only destiny

PEKING (R) — China Sunday firmly declared that socialism was the country's only destiny and there was no place for "Westernisation."

The Guangming Daily, China's journal of intellectual thought, indirectly singled out a university professor linked to recent student protests, for the leadership's latest attack on supporters of Western capitalism.

In a front page editorial, the paper said "a certain university vice-principal" was among those wanting to completely transpose Western capitalism to China.

The paper stopped short of naming Fang Lizhi, vice-principal of the Science and Technology College in Hefei where the month-long student unrest started last December.

Fang, now living at Peking University under surveillance, has been expelled from the Communist Party for it sees as his role in the democracy protests

which swept 12 Chinese cities.

The Guangming Daily quoted the "certain university vice-principal" as saying:

"I welcome complete Westernisation. This includes studying Western science, technology, culture, politics, ideology ... in fact everything, including our systems of politics and ownership."

The editorial commented that China's history had been 10,000 years of sorrow until it found socialism.

"Only socialism can save China," the editorial said.

"Without the leadership of the Communist Party and socialism, China has no future — this is the destiny of China," it added.

The paper's uncompromising comment was the latest in a drive against Western "bourgeois" ideas. The campaign began in late December after tens of thousands of students took to the streets in Shanghai.

Soviets appoint new arms negotiator

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union, heading into new arms control talks with the United States, has replaced the head of its negotiating team with a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, a senior U.S. official has said.

The Soviet's new chief negotiator is Yuli Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister.

He takes over for Viktor Karpov, who has dealt with the U.S. negotiating team headed by Max Kampelman since talks opened in Geneva 22 months ago.

With the next round starting on

Thursday, there is no indication of a breakthrough in the slow-moving negotiations to curb both medium- and long-range nuclear weapons and to consider restraints on space-based systems.

The administration official, who spoke on condition he not be named, said the United States had long privately urged the Soviets to appoint a high-level chief negotiator equivalent to Mr. Kampelman and former Senator John Tower, who left the U.S. delegation last year.

The officials said the Reagan administration was pleased with

the change, which has not yet been formally announced.

Behind the scenes at the October summit meeting in Iceland, the chief of the Soviet Armed Forces, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, appeared to play a leading role in arms control discussion with American experts.

Some of U.S. officials came away convinced that Mr. Karpov lacked the authority to make major moves at the bargaining table. And one U.S. delegate, speaking after the Iceland summit ended, characterised Karpov as a propagandist.

Testing will, however, needlessly delay attaining an operational capability with the system."

Mr. Weinberger's unequivocal vow to begin producing Asat missiles was somewhat unusual, given the fact that Congress could block funding for such a move.

The defence secretary, in reviewing the military threats confronting the United States and its allies, offered the same grim view of past years.

The military balance in Europe remains adverse, he said. The Soviets continue to expand and modernise their forces in East Asia and Latin America remains threatened by "the massive Cuban and Nicaraguan build-up of conventional military forces," he said.

On the other hand, the economic growth of Japan and other Asian countries is helping to counter Soviet moves; the United States is in a much better position now to respond to emergencies in the Middle East, and the navy still provides "an overall maritime balance favourable to the United States."

Beyond the Soviet Union, the United States is most threatened by small-scale wars, terrorism and the flow of illegal drugs," Mr. Weinberger wrote.

As one response to those threats, the Pentagon is asking for \$2.5 billion for special operations forces such as the Green Berets and Navy SEALs in 1988. Mr. Weinberger noted the Soviets already have a crude version of such a weapon.

"In fiscal 1989, we will begin producing the missiles," Mr. Weinberger vowed. "Further congressional restrictions on Asat

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Elephant crushes his handler at zoo

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — An animal handler at the Fort Worth Zoo was crushed to death when a 4-tonne elephant knocked him to the ground and stepped on his head, officials said. Michael Bell, 35, of Fort Worth, who had handled elephants during most of the 14 years he had worked at the zoo, was pronounced dead at the scene, said Ken Seleske, the zoo's assistant supervisor of education. Seleske said it was the first fatal accident in the zoo's 78-year history. Bell was stopped on about 1 p.m. (1900 GMT) by Sam, an elephant in his early 20s who arrived at the zoo's new breeding facility last April from the International Wildlife Park in nearby Grand Prairie. The elephant knocked Bell to the ground with his trunk as Bell and another elephant keeper, John Leggett, were moving the zoo's seven elephants indoors, said Dr. William Kirksey, veterinarian for the Fort Worth Zoo.

Press applauds ban on headscarf

ANKARA (R) — President Kemal Evren has won backing from Turkey's biggest-selling newspaper for a strong attack on Islamic extremists and continuing protests over a ban on women students covering their heads in classes. Gen. Evren earlier this week warned the Muslim nation that what he termed "backward fundamentalism" posed a danger to Turkey and its secular constitution. He took a tough stand behind a controversial move by universities to ban women wearing the headscarf in class as a sign of religious observance. "Evren's words have expressed the views and fears of millions of Turkish people who have common sense," wrote a commentator in the newspaper Hurriyet. "He pointed out the real dimensions of the threat hidden underneath." In Ankara, 60 female students were not allowed into classes Friday because they were covering their heads. In Istanbul, 20 young women were asked to leave classes and 15 students got warnings in the eastern Erzurum University for wearing scarves on the campus, press reports said.

Jakarta bars entry to AIDS carriers

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia is refusing entry to foreigners suspected of carrying the deadly AIDS virus. Health Minister Sudarmono Surjiongrat said. He was quoted by the official Antara News Agency as saying no confirmed case of AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — had been found so far in Indonesia and the government wanted to keep the country of 163 million people free from the killer disease. He said two foreign men were refused entry to Indonesia at Jakarta International Airport last month after they were reported by the Indonesian embassy in London to be affected by AIDS — a virus which kills by stripping the body of its natural defences against disease. Mr. Surjiongrat said a strict control on foreigners entering the country should be maintained through close cooperation between government agencies. The minister said that although one Jakarta patient had been suspected of having AIDS, analysis in the United States showed him to be free from the disease.

Kids question Thatcher on TV

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher appeared on a popular children's television show and answered questions on subjects ranging from pop music to nuclear weapons. Young viewers put their questions to Mrs. Thatcher by telephone on the British Broadcasting Corp.'s "superstore" programme. Asked by one girl where she expected to be in the event of nuclear war, Mrs. Thatcher said, "London." But she parried a suggestion that she might have to be in a bunker, saying, "the whole point of having nuclear weapons is to stop a war of any kind." Nuclear weapons, she asserted, are "the best peace policy we have ever had." As to pop music, the British leader said: "I find it a little bit noisy ... I like to have melody." Mrs. Thatcher said she enjoys "enormously" the television series, Yes, Prime Minister, which pokes fun at the government. She also discussed her plans for revamping the education system and said she would like to see more women in politics. Turning the tables, Mrs. Thatcher invited the children to send in replies to the question: "What would you most like to do if you were prime minister, and why?" She promised a visit to 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's office, for the three best entries.

Policeman saves 30 from disaster

WICKWAR, England (AP) — Sharp-nosed policeman Nick Shaw was the hero of his village Friday after leading 30 residents of the main street to safety an hour before a gas leak blew it up. The 29-year-old constable was coming home from working late at his post in the west England village when he smelled gas. He ran from door to door waking up neighbours and shepherding them to a community hall. One hour later gas from a burst main ignited and broke through the asphalt, sending 5-metre plumes of flame into the air. Roots and walls collapsed and debris showered down. But no one was injured. "Quite simply, Nick was magnificent," said schoolteacher Don Gregory, who was led to safety by the policeman with his wife Rusty and cat Dillon. "I've been a policeman for seven years and it's just the sort of thing any police officer would have done," Shaw said. Shaw's own home was demolished, but he got his wife Louisa to safety before the blast. About a dozen other homes were reported damaged.

Newspaper prints typewritten issue

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A major computer failure forced the Milan newspaper La Stampa to print a typewritten afternoon edition. "We had to use the few typewriters left in the offices when our terminals and the high technology printing system collapsed," said editor Pietro Giorgianni. The typewritten edition of a few pages was sold for 200 lire (15 cents) instead of the regular price of 700 lire (53 cents). The newspaper has a circulation of 130,000. Giorgianni said all the 8,000 typewritten and xeroxed copies were sold.

Police officer sentenced to death

LAGOS (R) — A senior Nigerian police officer was sentenced to death by firing squad for protecting a notorious armed robber and sharing his loot. Police Deputy Superintendent George Iyamu, 48, was found guilty of supplying arms and information to the robber in several attacks, the New Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said. Four young members of a gang led by Lawrence "the law" Anini, Nigeria's most notorious criminal, were also condemned to die by the tribunal in Benin city, east of Lagos.

Son convicted of killing father

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 24-year-old student was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for shooting dead his Texas multi-million